



**ST CHARLES COLLEGE**  
S O U T H A F R I C A

# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Friends of the College

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the new year at St Charles College. What an honour it is to be part of writing the future in partnership with you as we set our minds to inspiring your sons to make the year ahead great.

We've started 2019 with excellent news of record breaking Cambridge results and sport performances that would make any Principal proud. For some reason we have come back with an unreasonable optimism and it is our belief that the greatest possibilities for this College still lie ahead.


A brilliant team of skilled staff and boys have worked tremendously hard for many, many years to raise the profile of this College and a great question would be to ask why we would dedicate ourselves to such a cause?

The answer could be many things, but the common answer is that we as a community *believe* that the world could work better, that we should not accept the current reality as it is, that we could treat each other better and, most importantly, that it won't improve unless we personally take part in the action of changing it.

Every boy at St Charles College is expected to work hard to earn the right to change the world, so that when their turn comes, they have the skills and the capacity to be effective.

143 years ago when the College began in humble circumstances, the purpose of equipping boys with the moral and intellectual courage to become an independent voice for right was foremost in the mind of one Bishop Charles Jolivet, and it remains a noble cause to this day.

We wish you and your family all the best as you venture into 2019.



PRINCIPAL

# 2019

SUMMER EDITION TERM 1

"He has told you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, to love kindness, and to  
walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)

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FIDELI CERTA MERCES

*To the faithful one, a certain reward*

# NEW CAMBRIDGE RECORDS

NOVEMBER 2018

## IGCSE

The IGCSE results of the Grade 10 boys of 2018 are something to celebrate. 80% of all symbols were C or better. This year the top performing subject was Physical Science with 41 distinctions followed by Mathematics with 36 distinctions, English Language with 30 distinctions and Biology with 24 distinctions. 25 boys received academic badges for achieving four or more distinctions:

### SEVEN DISTINCTIONS

SEBASTIAN KAMBOURIS  
JEREMY PURCELL  
CALEB REYNARD

### SIX DISTINCTIONS

HIRAK AHIR  
MICHAEL COOK  
GRANT EVANS  
BOAZ HANSEN  
GIDEON MARTINSON  
MAX NATRASS

### FIVE DISTINCTIONS

SWAYD BARKHUIZEN  
OWEN BOTHA  
TRENT COCKER  
ZACHARY KNOWLES

THOMAS LASKEY  
DAVRYN NAIDOO  
CREYAAG RAMPERSAD  
NQOBANI VUKA

### FOUR DISTINCTIONS

MICHAEL DE WET  
MUFARO KAMBA  
DYLAN MCGUIRE  
SANELE MDINGI  
BENJAMIN PATRICK  
DERON PETER  
JOHANNES RAUTENBACH  
RYAN WILDE  
WANDILE ZUMA

*\*alphabetical*



*Scott Anderson was named Dux scholar for 2018 receiving a full house of distinctions for his June AS Level examinations. Scott continued on to complete his A Levels in Mathematics, Physics and History in November and has just begun his studies in Agricultural Engineering at Stellenbosch University.*

## A LEVEL STREAM FLOWS

We are pleased to implement a dedicated A level stream at the College. This follows extensive analysis of our previous dual system and our effectiveness in delivery of the international Cambridge curriculum across the College. Boys who demonstrate that they are academically mature begin their path in Term 1 of their Grade 11 year and work towards writing A Levels in November of their Matric year. These boys are able, if they achieve the desired results, to obtain final acceptance at University before the rest of the country has even written their matric examinations. Where individual results in June are below the symbols required for the course of their choice, they have the option to rewrite in November and to use the best result.

The advantage is to the AS Level stream where we are able to slow down the pace and give more time to understand and practice the challenging subjects.

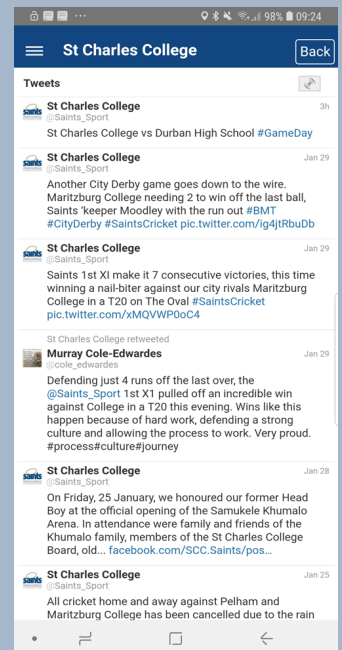
# THIS IS WHY WE CUT THE GRASS



## 8 WINS IN A ROW FOR 1st XI CRICKET

Amazing memorable moments should be celebrated - the First Team have chalked up some notable victories with a streak of eight winning games.

St Stithians	T20	SCC won by 67 runs	MICHAELMAS
Northwood	50 Overs	SCC won by 91 runs	SCC OVAL
Kearsney	50 overs	SCC won by 82 runs	SCC OVAL
Pearson	50 overs	SCC won by 8 wickets	PORT ELIZABETH
Framesby	2 day game	SCC won on 1st innings	PORT ELIZABETH
Muir College	50 overs	SCC won by 141 runs	PORT ELIZABETH
Grey Bloem	T20	SCC won by 7 runs	PORT ELIZABETH
M College	T20	SCC won by 1 run	SCC OVAL
DHS	50 overs	SCC won by 6 wickets	DURBAN



### CRICKET SPECIALIST SEARCH

St Charles College will be looking for a new Cricket Specialist to inspire the next wave of cricket at the College. In January, we said farewell to Mr Robbie Coutts who has relocated to the South Coast. Mr Coutts was a passionate cricketer and coach and we wish him well in his new ventures.

The vacant post will be managed by the Head of Sport until the position is advertised and filled later in the year.

A lot of work on facilities, nets and surfaces is being done inbetween excellent showers of heavy rain which makes for an interesting swimming and cricket season.

## Grade 12 boys testing tablet devices while differentiating trigonometric expressions



## Researching Augmented Reality

The College appointed Dr Miguel Cavero as the Head of Academic Research and Development to work towards the intentional integration of technology into teaching, learning and personal organisation. We believe that we have found the golden thread and we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

It's very important to know why we would allow the intrusion of technology into a learning space where the key element is that learning is a human activity. The intention is not to provide escape from reality or to entertain children who are bored with real life. Instead we seek to achieve the ultimate goal of education that was sacrificed when mass education for the industrial age was introduced.

We're going back to the age of the apprentice where an expert influenced a novice and passed on experience and wisdom by constant

feedback. The real question is: "How can technology deliver that rich educational experience better for each child?"

We are busy testing our assumptions on which device would be most effective in the learning process. The SAMSUNG Galaxy TAB A with S pen, so far, tops the list as an educational tool but the question of device specification remains open for now.

The College has spent several years laying down the infrastructure required to enter an augmented reality world, where digital advances enhance life and do not replace it. We recently appointed an internal IT Manager to accelerate the redesign of media and technology and position us as international leaders.

The solutions we seek are simple and seamless, and we can't wait to tell you what comes next.



## St Charles College graduate wins Young Scientist Award at Stellenbosch University

It's not every day that a medical student wins a major science competition above senior academics. But that is precisely what happened recently when MB,ChB VI student, Sean Anderson, won the Young Scientist Competition, clinical category, at the Conference of Biomedical and Natural Sciences and Therapeutics. Anderson won the award for his work on a paper titled *The Neurological Phenotype of Patients with HIV associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND) on Antiretroviral Therapy*, in which he examined the neurological data of HIV-positive patients.

Dr Eric Decloedt, Clinical Pharmacologist in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, said he was so impressed with Anderson's work that he explored the possibility of Anderson submitting his work as an independent degree.

"He is a very bright student and the quality of the work he has done exceeds that of most colleagues who train to become specialists," said Decloedt, who chaired the scientific organizing committee of the conference.

Explaining Anderson's work, Decloedt said: "In a nutshell, when a patient is infected with HIV, the neurological system gets infected within days. Despite ARV therapy, these patients continue to present with cognitive impairment. The ARV therapy treat severe forms of cognitive impairment... but the milder forms are still very prevalent despite ARVs. Sean Anderson examined

a group of patients and did neurological analyses on them. He looked for whether there were specific neurological signs, such as increased or decreased reflexes and whether that could help diagnose patients with HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders in the clinic. He tried to associate the neurological assessment with the degree of cognitive impairment."

*On Anderson's achievement, Decloedt said: "It is a big deal that an undergraduate medical student won the Young Scientist Competition as he was competing against MMed, masters and PhD students."*

*"We can definitely expect big things from Sean. What impressed me the most was how he managed to engage with the topic in such a short period of time and master the basic aspects of the issue and, using his own initiative, to research this further."*



# TRIBUTE TO A GREAT SOUTH AFRICAN



## PADDY KEARNEY (1938 - 2018)

An old boy of St Charles College, and a great South African - Paddy Kearney recently passed away at the age of 76. He is remembered for his active resistance to moral crimes of the South African government during the apartheid years.

“Kearney trained people to set up and effectively run social action groups in the struggle against apartheid in the 1980s, which attracted the attention of the security forces and the Diakonia Council of Churches offices were raided several times. Kearney was the face of Diakonia, which welcomed all who were pursued by apartheid forces, be they detainees or families whose relatives were persecuted, imprisoned or killed. “

Kearney worked closely with Archbishop Dennis Hurley and wrote a biography on the prominent leader. He continued his social activism directing Diakonia to become “a centre for education and a home for campaigns against social ills, the fight against HIV and AIDS, the abuse of women and children as well as against domestic violence”.

*“He was the founder of Diakonia, an author of two books on Archbishop Dennis Hurley and chairperson of Dennis Hurley Centre. He will be missed by all who knew him. A humble and yet a great South African.” - Allan Taylor*

## SAIDS REPORT ON DRUGS AND SPORT

The South African Institute for drug-free sport held a workshop with the Senior School boys where the issue of cannabinoids was tackled. The College is naturally alarmed by the recent relaxation of drug laws and will continue to grapple with this social force which impacts hugely across society.

We live in a country where thousands of people die each year because of drunk drivers and we wonder what the adverts will say about driving and smoking dagga.

Of special interest to us is the use of cannabinoid-containing oils which are completely unregulated, and freely available. Traces of THC are present in some of these oils which cause hallucinogenic reactions and may be linked to mental instability and degeneration. Besides this the substance THC remains on the banned list for sport.

What does remain firmly in place is that boys found in possession of dagga or other drugs will be expelled from the College.

### > CBD and other cannabinoids – side-effects

- **Proven to cause** (*?... detrimental effects in Youth?*)
  - loss of attention and motivation
  - impaired memory and learning abilities
  - Impaired educational attainment in adolescents who use regularly
  - **mood instability – rapid changes from euphoria to depression**
  - possible **weakening of the immune system**
  - **respiratory diseases** such as lung and throat cancer and chronic bronchitis
  - **psychological dependence**
  - **Increase in heart rate**
  - Psychotic symptoms and disorders in heavy users

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport | I PLAY FAIR | SAY NO TO DRUGS | © 2011 drugfreeport.org.za

### Additional reading

<https://www.usada.org/five-things-know-about-cannabidiol/>

<https://www.usada.org/substances/marijuana-faq/#mjeffects>

# WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE

*"We didn't start the fire  
It was always burning  
Since the world's been turning  
We didn't start the fire  
No we didn't light it  
But we tried to fight it*

*We didn't start the fire  
It was always burning  
Since the world's been turning  
We didn't start the fire  
But when we are gone  
Will it still burn on, and on,  
and on, and on"*

BILLY JOEL

## ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE-THINKING 2021

Twice this year the city dump has been on fire. Fortunately for us, and not so fortunately for others, the prevailing winds have carried the smoke away from us and we have been, coincidentally, largely unaffected. The summer fires happen because the Dump does not have the compacting machines required to condense the refuse and this provides ideal conditions for a three day fire, where plastic and textiles achieve sustained combustion.

Blaming the City Manager or the Dump Management seems futile, although one would assume that by law they have responsibility for air quality. There is of course a solution which does not seem to be tabled anywhere - perhaps it is because it seems unthinkable to our collectively apathetic natures as South Africans. In theory, at least we should not be designing dumps for the future but rather we should be planning to eliminate them altogether.

If organic waste were to be sent through the sewer system via garbage disposal systems, and all packaging was legally required to be recyclable, there should be no need to send rubbish to the dump. Those items which require specialized disposal should be paid for by individuals, similar to the way that obsolete electronic equipment needs to be taken apart and you pay for the recycling process. We need to rethink— new-think— and future-think our way to responsible and sustainable manufacturing where the whole lifecycle of a product and its packaging, can be accounted for. In the same way that demand for organic foods have created an avenue for those whose consciences direct them to pay more so that the products they buy do not have adverse effects on the environment, those who believe that we cannot continue in this cycle of dumping waste need to put their consumption habits and money where their consciences direct them.

Over the next three years we wish to reduce our contribution to the dump to zero. So when the rubbish burns we can be indignant - because it won't be ours.

**Y**ou're Invited - We know that many of our parents are passionate about this topic. Please send any ideas, research or advice to [principalspa@scc.co.za](mailto:principalspa@scc.co.za) and help us accomplish this goal. If you are in the business of recycling send us details and we will publish your services to the city.

# COMMUNICATION

The most effective and reliable way for us to communicate with parents is via the Saints App.

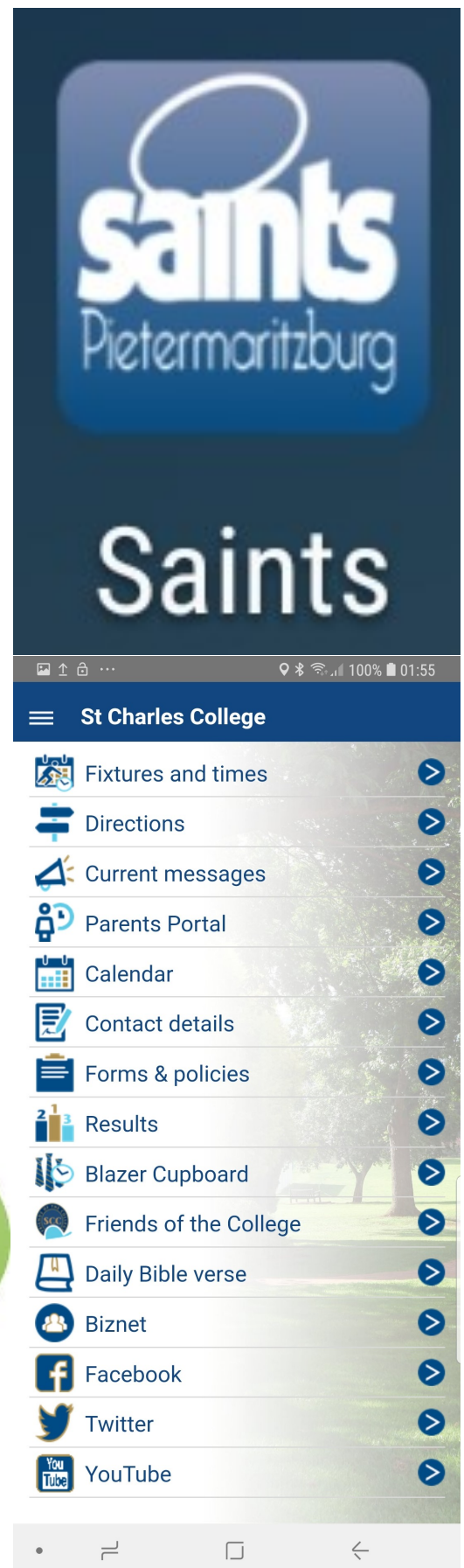
The APP is available to Android and IOS devices from the Play Store and App Store, respectively.

Look for: Saints Pietermaritzburg and download.



For those who have previously downloaded the app, please use the hamburger button to upgrade/refresh or simply download the new version to your phone.

Once you have it there are lots of features made for parents, particularly the parent's portal, fixtures and a messaging service that delivers push notifications like Whatsapp.



PLEASE

Download



THE APP



FIDELI CERTA MERCES

*To the faithful one, a certain reward*